

Here is the complete list of parent comments to the HW over vacation survey. Solely to facilitate review we divided the comments into four rough groups, recognizing that there is some overlap between some of the groups and some comments do not easily fit into these groups.

Group 1:

A significant number of parents (51 comments) said there should be no homework over vacation. Stress and family time were cited as concerns by many in this group.

Group 2:

A smaller number of parents (16 comments) said the exact opposite, namely, that they liked having homework over vacation (and, in some cases, would prefer that there were more homework given).

Group 3:

Another significant group of parents (51 comments) thought it was OK to have homework over vacation, but with certain caveats. Commonly raised issues among this group were timing (that is, that nothing should be due the first day back, or that there should not be tests that day, or that homework should be assigned well in advance of a break), type of homework (for example, that heavy text books and computers should not be required), and quantity (that is, homework should not be excessive in amount). A few parents in this group said AP classes might be an exception in that more homework over break might be required for those classes.

Group 4:

Finally, a group of parents (24 comments) thought reading a book should be the only type of homework given over vacation

1. Should not be homework over vacation (51 comments)

No homework

They usually don't remember the homework after the break anyway, they do it early then either leave it at home or don't look at it again. It doesn't serve much of a purpose other than busy work.

Homework should not be given over vacation periods.

I don't like the concept. Kids do not focus on their homework tasks when they are away.

I do not like the concept of homework over vacations. Greeley is very stressful. If the Administration is looking for creative ways to relieve stress in the student body, and

create a healthy environment, eliminating homework over vacations is a good way to start. I speak as a parent who has had three A students pass through Greeley, and they all agree with me and my husband.

I don't think homework should be given over a break. It is time for kids to relax and re-energize away from school. That way they are refreshed and ready to take on new challenges when they return after a break.

We only have family vacations during school vacations. This is really the only opportunity that we have to travel and have experiences together as a family. It always presents a problem when textbooks/computers are required to complete homework and it is even worse when projects are assigned. I feel that family time is very important. If there is a lot of homework assigned, what is really the point of having the break from school???

I don't like the concept of HW over vacations.

Vacations should be a time for the kids to have a real break. Homework can put a damper on the week's vacation which is very valuable and hard to find family time.

I am a firm believer that kids are overstressed during the school year. It would be nice to allow them to have vacation time to relax without worrying about homework and upcoming exams/quizzes. It is my opinion that this would allow the students to come back to school refreshed and that it would limit possible burnout.

I do not like the concept of homework over the vacations. It is a time to relax. As a community we are trying hard to eliminate unnecessary stress, why not start with this.

NO HOMEWORK. The definition of vacation - 'leisure time away from work devoted to rest or pleasure'. Homework just puts a HUGE damper on any vacations.

Please consider class trips that occur during vacations. My sons are going to Florida with the Baseball team sleeping 3 or 4 in a room, it would be impossible to get quality work done! Also, when my son went to Spain over Feb break, he stayed up all night upon his return the Sunday before classes were to resume doing homework.

I would suggest that homework not be given during vacations. Vacations/breaks are a time to de-stress and take it easy and spend quality time at home or away.

No, I don't think homework should be given over vacation. If anything, if students need to be assigned homework over these vacations, they should be given age appropriate books.

Homework should not be given over vacations, period. The teachers may not be aware that the exigencies of a particular vacation would require that homework cannot be attended to. For example, we will be going on vacation to Florence and Venice, and I cannot think of any activity which the children should not participate in, in order to do school homework. If the students have a project or assignment of long standing that happens to be due when or shortly after they return, that is a different issue entirely; the student can choose when to perform that assignment. The homework I object to is the kind that could only be performed during the vacation period.

No Homework.

vacation is in place for a reason...to step away from school/work and be on vacation.

I don't like the idea of homework over vacations. Students need down time too. On the rare occasions when a lot of homework was not assigned my children had the opportunity to explore and participate in other areas of interest such as reading for pleasure, community service, household projects, etc.

The students taking advanced and independent study courses do endless amounts of work all year long. They literally NEED a break over vacation for health purposes, i.e. to catch up on the sleep they've been lacking and practices (ie. physical activity) they've been missing just to keep up with homework and exams. Especially junior year when the kids have other testing as well that they'd like to use their breaks for (i.e. SATs, APs, ACTs, SAT IIs), the teachers need to give these kids a break. We've had to cancel college trips and SAT study time in order for our child to complete the astronomical load of work assigned over February break.

No homework should be given over vacat

I DON'T like the concept of homework over vacations. I believe vacations are family-time, and the daily grind of high school interferes with that enough. I would suggest, however, that if the AP teachers deem it necessary for completing course work in time for the AP exams in May, that there should be no homework given over the vacations with an exception made for AP classes.

I don't like the concept of homework over vacations.

Greeley students receive so much work on a daily basis. It is important for students to also have down time and relax and enjoy life too. I am a teacher at a the secondary level as well and my school (granted, a private school) discourages homework over breaks. I think we need to focus on raising 'balanced' children and not just braniacs.

I disagree. I do not think that homework should be given during vacation. I think that it is of utmost importance that the kids have a break from the constant stress that exists at Greeley because of the tremendous workload.

In a climate where students are constantly working, vacations are a needed break, As such, if I were designing a program to create a love of learning, I would hesitate to assign substantial homework over vacation periods,

i dont think there should be homework for the vacation week!

I think the students are given too much work to do.

They need a break. The benefits of having some time to relax and think about things other than getting homework done are being overlooked. A focus on creating a well rounded, healthy, not exhausted teenager should be a high priority and it does not appear to be. Balance is missing.

Not giving it! These kids are under so much pressure they should be allowed some down time to recharge and enjoy the other wonderful aspects of life. Enough is enough.

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don't think students should be given homework....they work hard enough during the school days and vacation should be a time where the student can relax and enjoy the down time

Homework should never be given over vacation in any form.

HW is good for school days but vacations are good time for families to relax and spend quality time together without worrying about HW. The children get reenergized and can focus better at school after relaxing vacations. Also, gives children time to use their imagination and pursue activities they enjoy but can't do during regular school days. HW also makes it harder for children who visit families in other countries as they might not have access to internet, books etc to complete their HW. Those are opportunities for children to freely explore new places, meet relatives and build relationships without constantly worrying about HW.

I think that vacations are a time for students to catch up on sleep and relax from very rigorous/stressful academics at Horace Greeley. I have noticed that both of my children can't enjoy a family vacation fully when they have homework to worry about and complete.

no homework over vacations

Homework during vacation should be extra-credit optional, not mandatory. Students and families should have a choice in this matter.

I do NOT like the concept of homework during vacations. There is too much homework assigned overall.

I don't like HW over vacations

Sometimes, I find it helpful to look at a dictionary to solve dilemmas; in this case, I do not understand why there is even any discussion. There should not be homework assignments during vacation: Vacation: L vacation- (s. of vacatio freedom from something; see vacate, -ion); r. ME vacacioun < AF 'leisure, a being free from duty,' from vacare 'be empty, free, or at leisure' (see vain). Meaning 'formal suspension of activity' (in ref. to schools, courts, etc.) is recorded from c.1456. As the U.S. equivalent of what in Britain is called a 'holiday,' it is attested from 1878. Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper Cite This Source va·ca·tion (va-ka'sh?n, v?-) n. 1. A period of time devoted to pleasure, rest, or relaxation, especially one with pay granted to an employee. 2. A holiday. A fixed period of holidays, especially one during which a school, court, or business suspends activities. 3. Archaic The act or an instance of vacating. ***** So for my dollar, I would vote not to extend the school day -- by which assigning work (that either has not been finished or for whatever reason needs to be done) is functioning as extending the school day. Whereby teachers can be trying to get more work done, squeezeing just a bit more into the school semester... more doesn't mean better. Homework should not interfere with family time when there are designated vacations. There is a reason for breaks and vacations; and the school should be a model for how to de-stress, not how to pile on more stress. Vacation needs to function as a much-needed opportunity for rejuvenating, revitalizing, reconnecting, or wistfully watching a blade of grass grow.

I understand how important homework is to reinforce classroom learning, but I think these kids get WAY too much homework and have no opportunity to live and learn outside of academics. They have too much stress, not enough down time, and if they are not academically oriented, they don't have the opportunity to explore other avenues. Music, interests, hobbies, writing. With all the work, they have no time to be. I am really unhappy with the district here for that reason. If they have the opportunity to be with their parents and do something on vacation, then please let them just do it and let them leave school behind for a bit. Thank you.

It is okay for homework to be due after vacation, but it should be given early as a long term project, so those that don't want to work over vacation can finish it before they go. There is so much pressure throughout the year - I think everybody needs a break in life occasionally

I can think of few things --besides major life-altering events like death, divorce or a major move--that are more burdensome for families than students who are never allowed to escape the relentless grind of daily homework assignments. Vacations should be used

as an opportunity for students to recharge their batteries, so to speak. Taking away students' rights to have a week or two of unstructured time to themselves is a recipe for burn-out and depression. Like adults, students should be allowed to use vacation time to decompress from the demands of everyday work responsibilities. There are other aspects of life (time spent with extended family, enriching travel experiences, etc.) that are meaningful besides what students are required to learn in school.

no homework

I don't like the concept of Homework over vacations. Between extracurricular activities and other demands, my child is up late most nights doing homework. Vacation should be a time to unwind.

The definition of vacation is: a period of suspension of work, study, or other activity, usually used for rest, recreation, or travel; recess or holiday. By giving homework over vacation, there is no suspension of work, study or other activity.

I do not like the idea of any homework over vacation. There have been times when we had to cancel our vacation plans. Our children have frequently returned to school not having done the work because there was no time to do so - i.e.- barely time to sleep when travelling. Some teachers give more work over vacation than they do on a weekly basis which is absolutely inexplicable.

No homework should be assigned over a vacation regardless of whether a student goes away or stays home. Students need an opportunity to relax and re-energize; it is not a vacation if students are working. Since there is no team structure at HG as there is in middle school, often the composite amount of work is high. Possible alternatives: 1) if teachers feel that homework has to be assigned, then announce it to the students the Monday before vacation starts so that students have a chance to complete the work before going on vacation. This is not optimal because usually, from what I have seen with my child and her friends, is that the days preceding the start of the vacation are filled with quizzes and tests, in addition to regular homework so students do not have time to get additional homework done before the vacation. 2) If work is assigned, have it due no earlier than the Friday after students have returned. No work should be due and no tests should be held the day students return from vacation, because that means that students will need to prepare for those over the vacation.

I do not agree with the concept that homework should be given over vacation. I feel that simple review suggestions would be most helpful.

I don't like hw during vacations at all. It actually makes me resentful. I feel that my kids work hard during school and that we are all so busy during the school year. I want vacation time to be my time with my kids.

2. Should be homework over vacation (16 comments)

I really can't believe that this is an issue. It actually is a bit ironic in a community that wears a badge of parenting success by the college decal they proudly display on their car that actual academic enrichment would even be an issue.

BTW...question #4 made me answer...there is not one concern we have for issuing homework while over vacation so I was forced to answer or I could not complete survey.

None of the choices in #4 are appropriate for my family...all of the options have negative connotations -- but I can't submit the survey without providing an answer! This survey is SO BIASED in structure, tone and content as to make it statistically unreliable and calls into question its value as a representation of the community's viewpoint as a whole.

The amt and type of hw that my daughter has been assigned as a freshman (Dec and Feb breaks) has been appropriate. No complaints.

I like the concept of homework during the vacations. When we were growing up we always got it. You just develop a discipline and get it done. It does not interfere with anything. I am in strong favor of having homework during breaks.

Problem: Question #3 invites the respondent to acquiesce to the status quo, but all possible answers to question #4 assume the respondent isn't happy with the status quo and cannot be left blank. Therefore, please ignore all my responses except to question #3 and to the elaboration below: Teachers give varying amounts of homework over holiday period. Some teachers do, and some don't. It is impossible to generalize. I am not opposed to homework over breaks. I think they are the only way to ensure that some studying is done over these extended periods.

In general, I have no issue with homework during vacation. Some teachers do not give homework. Those who do do not give excessive amounts.
think it is fine the way it is

I wanted a n/a choice for #4 but the survey required an answer as did #5

We have no issue with the homework over vacations. The survey made us select a choice for 4!

I have not encountered any problem, except to bring the computer.
(which became necessity wherever we go these days.)

Question 4 above is flawed. I have no problem with having HW over a vacation and there is no choice for that above. I have no problem with any form of HW over spring

and winter break. A little work is good to keep the kids' heads into the work. Too much of a break takes them out of their routine.

I have no issues with teachers assigning homework and/or projects during vacations. However, there should be a grace period for the students to hand in their works without any late penalty. I would object if an assignment is given just before the vacation and is due the first day of school after the break. High school students should be mature enough and responsible enough to pace themselves and get the work done. I have issues with the survey itself. This is a very biased questionnaire, in the sense that it directs the respondents to answer against homework assignments during vacations. If at all possible, please remove my answer from question 4. I wouldn't have checked any of the boxes, except that the survey was not accepted without any item checked (a perfect example of a biased questionnaire.)

I didn't want to click on anything on number 4 but it would not let me choose nothing. That's a flaw in this survey. I'm happy with the homework practices and I leave that up to teacher discretion.

I would have preferred to leave #4 blank but that was not an option. I have never found vacation homework assignments to be too burdensome. (3 children - the third is graduating this year.)

I like the fact that you folks sometimes assign homework over vacation. The form is fine.

My concern is that you do not assign enough homework during the school year. It's not even close to what I got when I was in high school. And I'm concerned that it ill prepares kids for college, but perhaps the standards in college have dropped as well. I hear that the Ivys are teaching courses on the social implications of MTV, and the like.

I talked to my daughter - she thinks it okay. Over the course of the vacation, she can choose when to focus on homework. If we are traveling, she does it on the plane or in the car. Otherwise, she does it at the beginning of the break and then has several days off. She takes it as a given that there is going to be homework, and just gets it done. This applies particularly to AP courses, which has a set schedule and curriculum that must be completed before the AP exams.

3. OK to have some homework over vacation, subject to certain caveats.

While the breaks are great for kids to decompress and have fun, homework or study work during breaks need not create stress if the work assigned is well thought out and not left for the last week or days of a break. If the work can somehow be meaningful to the kids and blend in one or more aspects of the break, the kids may be more motivated and the learning becomes more subtle. For example, math review packets are boring for the kids and generally have little connection to their lives. Kids who travel could create logs and itineraries from which they could perform calculations. Clearly the kids won't jump for joy over the task, but at least it's real-world and something they will face as adults.

I believe that some teachers give advance warning of assignments - perhaps if the policy was to give students the assignments far enough in advance so that the work could be completed before the vacation - that might be a good middle ground. That can be hard in some subjects such as math where the concepts need to be taught, but it could be attempted.

I like the concept of homework over vacations; I just don't like the form it is currently taking. I would suggest the following: minimal homework with assignments given many days before break and nothing due immediately after break.

Don't mind some homework over vacations. A math packet that is self-contained that can be done on a plane is perfect. However, when textbooks and loose papers have to be brought out to beach chairs on a family vacation, as a parent you are really wondering what your child is really going to get out of the assignment in that environment anyway. In addition, even though an assignment may not require computer access, your child may need to 'google' something just to get it done. Sometimes it costs extra for computer access, or you have to go to the hotel's business center. This becomes quite inconvenient. Perhaps assignments could be confined to reading books/handouts.

I view the 3 breaks as family time and, for two of the three breaks, religious days fall during those times. At Easter, when the Spring Break coincides, this is particularly difficult. (As an aside, having to be in school on Monday morning after a family dinner on Easter Sunday evening is particularly difficult., especially if we are traveling.) If hw must be assigned, it should be given well in advance, so the children can have an opportunity to complete it before the breaks.

Reading of easily packed and transported material is fine. The need to transport heavy science textbooks and laptops creates both psychic and physical inconvenience. We all want to relax and if parents can find a way to leave work behind students should have the same opportunity. Down time is crucially important particularly in such a competitive community.

There should not be a test on the first day or 2 back from vacation.

Packets only.

We are not opposed to some homework over vacation in general, especially if it is providing an outlet for completing work that would otherwise have to be added onto an already significant homework burden on non-vacation days. That being said, it does appear to be excessive, is not providing the student with sufficient time to unwind and gets in the way of other work (such as preparing for midterms, finals or standardized tests) that is also academic in nature and needs to be done. I'm not sure what to suggest, though, and I wish you luck in your efforts to better understand this problem and come up with a productive solution.

If the total amount of homework results in an hour or so per day of the student's time, that's fine. When it moves into several hours per day, that is excessive. [More troublesome than the high school assignments has been the middle school assignments. It often seems that the teachers serving on the same team do not talk to each other about the amount of homework or when they've scheduled tests so that the student is inundated with HOURS of homework not infrequently, or sometimes has multiple tests and projects due within a very short period of time. Additionally, the middle school math assignments are often overkill with as many as 40 or 50 problems assigned in a night. This is not an isolated incident, since both my children bore through it repeatedly, spending hours on math alone. The middle school math teachers seem to forget that the purpose of the homework assignments ought to be to reinforce the classroom learning, not some sort of marathon that serves through its excess as busy work and adds anxiety to the students' lives.]

A moderate amount of homework would be fine.

I understand the need to keep the students mind working over the break, perhaps just review packets on what was already covered, or at least less work. Over the winter break for 5 extra points on a test not your average, my daughter had to take a trip into the city to see the Silk Roads Exhibit at the museum of Natural History, answer basic questions about why you chose to sketch the specific item, sketch 4 pictures, and then write a 1.5 page essay.

worksheets to keep the mind fresh but not in depth study or papers which require research and much time to think

It's good to have some light homework, but this is a time for them to unwind and relax. No major research or heavy textbooks should be required. Class notes, light reading and light packets are fine.

I have found that there isn't coordination between teachers regarding the amount of homework-- at times there is none, other times each subject has homework

I don't like or dislike the concept of homework over vacations, I dislike the concept of a lot of homework over vacations and the fact that the students are not permitted to relax. The school year is very stressful and everyone needs a break. I don't know the form of the

homework to suggest. I think that is a question for the teachers. I do think there should be sensitivity to the weight of the textbooks.

When we do not have family plans, we can always find time for our child to complete their homework. However, if we do have plans with family then it is sometimes difficult to give her the time to complete assignments. We do not take our child out of school for family vacations as some people do so would like to celebrate our holidays with family from far away during vacations without worrying about assignments. I do like to have long term homework announced before vacations so children have more time to complete them.

in reality, we should have more school days as other developing countries. worksheets or packet of subjects to practice through out the vacation make sense. requiring needing textbook might not be productive. we should focus on subjects in Chappaqua to to more creative, explorative, experimental and innovative in thinking in all subjects. strengthening to create more students in scientific with intuitive strength and innovative passion to improve the environments, engineering appreciation, in every dimension and degree would be nice. maximizing wholesome person approach to teaching individual student to nurture the unique qualities within each student.

I think it's ok to assign homework. I'd prefer assignments that don't require taking a lot of textbooks, etc, along. There's nothing wrong with having the kids keep a portion of their minds on school work - as long as it's not all-consuming and creating too much stress or pressure.

Homework should be based on reading material not originated from th text books. This way students will obtain content from other sources than their texts that could provide a broader context of the subject matter.

I think reading a book for English and having a math packet to complete are fine over vacation. But anything that requires computer (research, papers) or heavy text books create a burden for travel. I made my daughter leave her computer home when we travelled over Feb break and she was very stressed out and had to complete many hours of work in a single day when we returned so as not to be late with assignments. Too much unnecessary stress.

Reading a book and writing a paper (can be done by hand) Homework packets Keep in mind the amount--it is a vacation Feel work SHOULD be given Just not in excess Feel NO heavy books or excessive research Give work to keep minds working and to stay current

The teachers give long range assignments, offering the students the option to work on assignments over a vacation at their choosing. They may also choose to work on it after the break. Some students may like the lighter load after break

Homework over vacation should allow the students to explore topics above and beyond the school curriculum. I believe that students can definitely spend a couple of hours a day (even during vacation) to gain knowledge on topics that interest them. So, vacation homework doesn't have to be an extension of their regular school-day homework.

I would much rather students actually spend every hour in school in a class (like in the 'old days'), rather than have homework. Let's make the school day more efficient! We were able to get 'Full-Day K,' now, let's push for Full-day High school!

One class which my son has had homework over break was for an AP class. It has a large curriculum which needs to be covered. If he is able to do the work with a packet that is preferable. It is not always possible for him to have internet access during a break. It is not always convenient to carry a heavy textbook. That is one area where I feel it is not fair to the kids who go away during break. My son has had to read a book for an English class. It is never a problem to have kids read, in my opinion. I think the class and subject matter has to be taken into account when discussing this topic.

it seems with the currently greeley schedule that students could choose to get most of there homework done before leaving or after coming back from vacation...also many students are so busy during regular school week that they choose to wait and do the bigger papers over the vacations so it can sometimes be the student that causes the stress during a timethat the family thinks they should be relaxing on vacation

I think some homework is fine, and usually it's not due until a few days after school is back in session. Reading and completing some packets are fine. If she was given long reports or projects to do it would be a problem. Vacation time is family time and we like to travel and spend time together.

A small amount of homework over vacations is fine, but certainly not work that is entirely dependent on computers and textbooks...

An hour in each subject area is sufficient, just like a regular school. Additional homework should be for extra credit

It is fine to give HW over any vacation as long as there is an extra time allocated by teachers to complete it e.g.: three days before/three days after. This way kids who go away would be able to finish it without interruption of family vacation. I am for HW assignment during winter/spring vacation.

Only give worksheets or packet that will not require a book, a computer, or research, and make sure it doesn't take more than 30 minutes to complete for each subject.

I don't like the concept of h/w over vacations, but I don't necessarily support a total ban. Possibly limit it to AP courses, where the May test creates an early deadline.

what I object to the most is giving an exam or quiz immediately when kids get back from vacation, so it's not merely doing homework over the break, but it's studying and having the additional stress of worrying about the exam. This is not the business world where there's often no such thing as a vacation where you're 100% unplugged--this is high school, and the kids should be allowed to enjoy a completely stress free time off. Giving a reading assignment is about as far as I'd go or possibly a reasonably short study packet, but nothing that would add additional stress to a much needed time away from all of the stresses of day to day life

I'm okay with homework over vacations but I think it should be a few days before the breaks so that those who want to try to get it done before or think they will be unable to do it over the vacations (for whatever reason) can do so. Also, I think it should not be due the first or day back so that there is a little leeway on that end, too. I think this could help address some of the stress/conflicts that may arise. Also I think assignments over vacation should not require computers or research so that it can be easily completed away from home.

more discussion with parents and individual child needs

I don't think homework over vacation is wrong, just as long as it is not too intense and our kids have some time to relax.

There are too many days off from school and the teachers can't get in the curriculum therefore homework becomes mandatory on the school breaks. I say eliminate the useless staff development days and the February vacation and then the other 'vacations' can be real vacations

English - Read a book - write informal brief summary of topic, if enjoyed & should friends read and why.....OR Travel? Brief essay, where, w/ who, why description, location ecc. Write 2-3 page JOURNAL.....Math - prepared 'Vacation FUN Worksheet/Packet' no textbook, computer FUN FACT MATH to work the brain, teasers.....jokes...Other subjects - creative ideas to do homework BUT FUN.

No day to day type homework should be given. The completion of a long range project can be due right after vacation giving the child the option of getting it done before vacation or during their vacation. It is their choice

I like the idea of homework that is project oriented, therefore a complete exercise start to finish. A good example of this is was the Silk Road project given for extra credit to the 9th graders.

At the Greeley level: I think that some homework (especially reading non textbooks) is Ok and even a worksheet but if you do a community service type trip or look at colleges or do an internship (all things to better yourself, your education and take a lot out of you) it becomes a major stress during a time that is supposed to be used for rejuvenation. At

another school we attended, the school vacations fell between quarters so there was no worry about homework and it really was a true vacation for both parents and kids.

Homework over vacation should be minimal. Students can use the time to review coursework if necessary.

I believe that if homework is to be given during a vacation week that it should be the least amount possible. The students work hard and need the down time as much as the teachers do. They need to get rid of the stress and they can't if they are spending the total vacation doing homework and studying for test that are given either the day they return or the next day.

I generally think HGHS teacher's give out a lot of homework which doesn't allow our kids to relax and participate in personal interest activities (not sports but other things the kids might be interested in outside of school work/related activities). A little bit of homework is understandable but the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction.

In my opinion, a minimal amount of homework over vacation is appropriate. However, If every teacher assigns what they believe to be a minimal amount, it quickly can add up! I would prefer hw over the vacation to primarily take the form of reading a novel, perhaps a few math problems if students are in the middle of a unit. I don't think papers should be assigned over vacation.

Vacation time should be a break from the work and stress of the school year. The only homework that I would not see as stressful and intrusive is reading a book. But projects and mid-term assignments are too much during vacation time....unless they were assigned with enough time so that the student has the option to do the work before the break or during vacation if they choose.

Don't give any homework to them---there really is no reason a child can't have a week off. It's so unnecessary---the child will get into a fine college someday. Currently my college aged child is on spring break---all her exams and papers were due BEFORE the break. If you must give out homework anyway, have the homework in the form of extra credit and give it out 1 week before vacation so the student can do it during her free time whether before or during the vacation. make the amount of homework minimal--just enough to keep the kid's brain flowing. honestly, if I take my family to Thailand, we're not dragging homework with us.

I think only a minimal amount of homework is necessary over vacations. There is enough homework given during the year that a vacation period should basically be a break from the homework.

I disagree with the statement above. Except in extenuating circumstances (an AP exam coming up, for example) these kids should be allowed to have some downtime. My high school age child puts enormous pressure on herself, and while her homework so far over

vacations has been completely manageable, I would rather she use the time to completely decompress.

4. Homework over vacation should be reading a book only

I do not agree with homework during a vacation. Reading a book other than a text would be fine.

Homework over vacations should be kept to a minimum. Encourage independent reading over vacations as an alternative to required homework assignments. This will allow for some down time and much needed relaxation.

Just light reading should be required.

Reading

Reading books other than textbooks would be a good option.

Optional reading

I feel homework over vacations should be a 'Reading Break', Family Time and volunteer time for community service. I actually would suggest less vacation time, especially Winter Break. It is very difficult to get back into the routine after break. I would recommend getting out of school earlier in June.

Reading books

If homework is assigned it should be stress free and enjoyable such as reading a literature book that one would enjoy

reading is always great

How about reading a book for pleasure?

Reading seems fine. Use of textbooks, computers, busy work, etc. seems unnecessary. Sometimes feel like they don't ever get a break to recharge their batteries.

reading books is fine. Anything else is another argument.

A student might read a book OF HIS OR HER CHOICE --maybe from a suggested reading list-- and writ a brief summary of the theme, plot, conflict and describe some major characters. Reading for pleasure on vacation is good!

I think some reading to enrich curriculum is fine - not textbooks and reflective writing. The concerns are because it becomes too much. There should be a limit.

Reading a book of one's choice over vacation. My children don't have enough time to read for enjoyment and this would be a much more productive way of spending their time rather than the stress of everything they have to take along with them (books, papers, computers etc.). All the homework also interferes with quality family time.

Homework should not be given over vacations. The kids work hard enough as it is, and deserve a break. It would be nice if kids were reading the book(s) of their choice over the vacation breaks, but anything else is busywork.

My daughter took a community service trip to build houses in a third world country during February break. This was an amazing experience. She ended up missing school the Monday following vacation because she had homework that needed to be completed. We also have historically taken family vacations which are extremely valuable and important. If homework needs to be assigned I would suggest reading material such as a book of their own choosing.

reading over vacation is ideal, especially a collaborative assignment among the disciplines. As for number 3, I have given this subject thought and think some homework is ok so none of the responses fits my point of view--that the form of homework should change, not the fact that they get any; since the survey requires an answer for number 3 I chose the fourth respons

Reading a book over vacation seems reasonable - it's portable. However, if it's reading something that needs a lot of guidance, like Shakespeare, the kids are just spinning their wheels over break, and that's not OK. Silly art projects that are just busy work are also not OK. I don't see that they learn anything from making a poster about Catherine de Medici or whoever. I only have a freshman, so we only have a couple of vacations under our belt. It probably gets worse from here on out.

Reading or studying is fine

Just some reading to keep their minds active. No tests, text books or packets should be required. We get so little family time during the school year, I think homework over vacation interferes with that precious time.

reading would be the best form of homework during a vacation

reading a novel,

